

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JESSIE L. MEDLIN, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING

August 27, 1999

A. CALL TO ORDER

The August 27, 1999, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Jessie L. Medlin of DeSoto County.

DeSoto County Chancery Clerk, W. E. “Sluggo Davis” was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----District 1
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----District 2
Supervisor Jimmy James-----District 3
Supervisor John Caldwell-----District 4
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----District 5
W. E. “Sluggo” Davis-----Chancery Clerk
David Armstrong-----County Administrator
William Austin-----Board Attorney

B. INVOCATION

The invocation was presented by County Administrator David Armstrong.

C. BUDGET FY 2000

The Board President, Supervisor Jessie Medlin, called for a public hearing on the budget for FY 2000. He advised the public that the Board of Supervisors expects to adopt the budget for FY 2000 on September 7, 1999. Supervisor Medlin said if there is no one to address the Board of Supervisors about the budget, the Board will continue with that business. No person came forward to address the Board. **** See Exhibit C****

County Administrator David Armstrong presented revisions to the budget for FY 2000. He said the general fund budget is \$24,234,408.00. He said that the average increase among the departments is 4% including the 5% pay raises.

County Attorney Bill Austin reminded the Board of Supervisors that during the planning of Highway 304, the Board of Supervisors signed a contract to fund a right of way off of Highway 304. He said that for planning purposes, the expenses for engineering and the right of way should be considered so that the county does not get into a bind.

1. Fire Departments

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if the fire trucks had been funded in the budget. County Administrator David Armstrong advised that the fire trucks were covered when the dispatchers

ITEM C.1., CONTINUED,

were placed under EMS.

Supervisor Jimmy James said with \$7 million in contingency funds, the county should consider funding the volunteer fire departments during the day. Supervisor Eugene Thach said he would vote against the general fund covering the county fire departments because the cities should not have to pay for county fire departments and the city departments, too. Supervisor John Caldwell said that contingency funds cannot cover recurring expenses such as salaries of firemen. Supervisor Caldwell said that annual revenues have to cover recurring expenses.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said that if the county wants a fire department, the Board of Supervisors must realize that taxes will have to be increased to fund the fire department. Supervisor John Caldwell suggested giving Bobby Storey, EMS Director, guidance to work on a solution to the county fire protection over the next few years. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said that the issue should be taken before the people to see what they want.

2. Central Maintenance

The County Administrator said that Kenny Gunn had requested a 23% pay raise increase. The Board of Supervisors agreed on a 5% pay raise for Central Maintenance.

3. Civic Center

County Administrator David Armstrong said that the Board of Supervisors needed to discuss the funding of the Civic Center. David Armstrong said that County Attorney Bill Austin, Vanessa Lynchard and he had all spoken with Demery Grubbs and Demery Grubbs said that the Civic Center has a \$1.13 million revenue and should be able to cover its own expenses. David Armstrong said he did not think the Board of Supervisors should take the liability when the Civic Center has the personnel and revenue to cover its own expenses. Supervisor Eugene Thach said that Demery Grubbs should come and discuss the issue with the Board of Supervisors. David Armstrong said that Demery Grubbs will be up here next week to discuss the Civic Center.

Bill Bayne, a reporter for the Commercial Appeal asked the Board of Supervisors if the budget for FY 2000 shows a four year road bond. Supervisors John Caldwell said that resurfacing will not be under a bond but that only new road will be in bonds.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Workforce Investment Act

David Armstrong addressed the Board of Supervisors about the Workforce Investment Act. Mr. Armstrong said that he had spoken to Ken Murphy of the Delta Council. Mr. Murphy said that the Delta Council will not be the fiscal agency for the Delta Region but that the Delta Council will oversee operations of the one stop agency.

Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis told the Board of Supervisors that he had a call yesterday regarding the Workforce Investment Act and it was his understanding that there was not going to be any changes in the development districts regardless of requests by counties to be in certain districts. He also said that Tate County, Grenada County, and DeSoto County were the only three counties that had not yet joined the Three Rivers Planning and Development District.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said that he was leaning towards changing districts but his decision was based on the Delta Council being the fiscal agency for the Delta Region. Supervisor Thach asked if the Delta Council knew who will be the fiscal agency. County Administrator David

ITEM D.1., CONTINUED,

Armstrong said that the Delta Council does not have a recommendation of who will be the fiscal agency.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said that he had heard that the date to make a decision had changed again and was not September 15, 1999. He suggested holding the vote on the Workforce Investment Act until September 7, 1999 if the date had been extended.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said that Vivian Berryhill recommended the Delta Region for DeSoto County.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Jimmy James seconded the motion to hold the issue on September 7, 1999. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

County Administrator David Armstrong said that he felt a decision should be made soon so that Tate County could decide which district they want to be in. He said that he had talked to Preston McKay, the County Administrator of Tate County and Mr. McKay said that Tate County wants to be in the same district as DeSoto County. David Armstrong expressed his concerns about the Three Rivers District.

County Administrator David Armstrong said that he will be attending a meeting on August 30, 1999 at Delta State University and that he would find out more information at the meeting about the Workforce Investment Act. He said that Tate County will also be participating in the meeting.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said that the Board of Supervisors should not rush making a decision. Supervisor John Caldwell said to go ahead and make a decision today. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said that a decision should be made so that Tate County can go ahead and make a decision.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded a motion to reconsider the Workforce Investment Act. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis suggested sending a joint resolution with Tate County to the Governor requesting to be in the third district. Supervisor Eugene Thach said just to include DeSoto County in the resolution. Supervisor Jessie Medlin said that DeSoto County would send its own resolution and would call Tate County with the decision.

The Board of Supervisors instructed the County Administrator to talk to Tate and Grenada Counties about their intentions.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Jimmy James seconded the motion to send a resolution to the Governor to join the third SDA Region and to check with Tate and Grenada Counties to possibly make it a joint resolution. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **** See Exhibit D.1.****

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Investment of Surplus Funds

In accordance with Section 19-2-29 of the Mississippi Code, which states that whenever any county shall have on hand any bond and interest funds, any funds derived from the sale of bonds, special funds, or any other funds in excess of the sums which will be required to meet the current needs and demands of no more than seven (7) business days, the Board of Supervisors of such county shall invest such excess funds.

ITEM E.1., CONTINUED,

At the recommendation of the Comptroller, Dale Thompson, Supervisor John Caldwell made

the motion and Supervisor Jimmy James seconded the motion to approve the investment of surplus funds to First American Bank, who was the high bidder that placed their bid on time for funds as follows:

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Date of Bank</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u># of</u>
	8/10/99	First American	\$6,000,000.00	9/9/99	30	_____
	8/10/99	First American	\$5,000,000.00	9/30/99	51	_____

The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **** See Exhibit E.1.****

2. Approval of Increases and Reductions in Tax Assessments

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve the petitions for reduction of tax assessments as recommended by the DeSoto County Tax Assessor as noted in Exhibit E.2. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **** See Exhibit E.2.****

3. Approval to Pay Registration for County Administrator to Attend Conference

The County Administrator said that Waggoner Engineering suggested he attend a workshop hosted by the EPA in Jackson. Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion, and Supervisor Jimmy James seconded the motion to approve registration in the amount of \$50.00 and travel for County Administrator David Armstrong to Jackson, Mississippi for the Mississippi Local Government Environmental Conference on September 8 and September 9, 1999 and to authorize the Clerk to write the check.. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. ****See Exhibit E.3.****

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The “Executive Session” portion of this meeting is presented under the portion of minutes called “Executive Session.

G. OTHER ISSUES

1. Authorization to Disburse Confidential Funds - Metro Narcotics

At the recommendation of Sheriff James A. Riley, Supervisor John Caldwell made a motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion authorizing Commander Randy Doss to disburse confidential funds for Metro Narcotics in accordance with the provisions set forth by the Division of Public Safety Planning for the use and control of confidential funds. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. ****See Exhibit G.1.****

2. Approval of Contract - A-1 Fire Protection - EMS

Vanessa Lynchard presented a contract for fire extinguishers from A-1 Fire Protection for the EMS departments at Lewisburg, Walls, and Eudora. Supervisor Jimmy James made a motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve the contract between A-1 Fire Protection and DeSoto County for the annual fee and maintenance of the fire extinguishers located at the Lewisburg, Walls, and Eudora EMS Department at a cost of \$25.00 for each location and maintenance costs. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **** See Exhibit G.2.****

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion

to adjourn until September 7, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

THIS the 27th day of August, 1999, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

Jessie L. Medlin, President
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors